

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF, TW

SUBJECT:INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: APPROACHES TO
COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM

REF: A) STATE 178333 (NOTAL)
B) WELLINGTON 3084 (NOTAL)
C) KUALA LUMPUR 5120 (NOTAL)
D) STATE 195894-76 (NOTAL)

1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUGUST 11 MADE A DETERMINATION
TO PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE,
INCLUDING 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HIS DETERMINATION
SHOULD LIGHTEN REFUGEE PRESSURES IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST
ASYLUM. IT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED APPEAL TO
EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

2. THE PRESIDENT, KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE PRESS,
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AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER
THE PLIGHT OF THE BOAT CASE REFUGEES. ACCOUNTS OF
EXTENSIVE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE REACHED A CRESCENDO
IN JUNE AND JULY. THEY CENTERED ON SHIPS AT SEA THAT
PASSED UP REFUGEES IN DISTRESS, AND ON SOME COUNTRIES
AROUND THE PERIPHERY OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT FORCED

BOATS BACK OFFSHORE, OR REFUSED TO ALLOW TO DEBARK IN THEIR PORTS THOSE REFUGEES THAT SHIPS HAD ALREADY RESCUED. THERE IS MUCH MORE DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE THAN DURING THE 1976 REQUEST FOR THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM.

3. SOME COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION ARE CONTINUING OR EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS. FRANCE HAS AVERAGED AN INTAKE OF ABOUT 1000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PER MONTH SINCE MAY 1975. AUSTRALIA HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A REFUGEE OFFICE IN BANGKOK. AUSTRALIA, IN ADDITION TO THE SOME 3000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN, PLANS TO ADMIT 150 PER MONTH FOR AT LEAST A YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1977. NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY ACCEPT UP TO 70 FAMILIES, OR SOME 420 INDIVIDUALS (REF B). CANADA, WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SOME 7000, RECENTLY INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 450 MORE. DENMARK ANNOUNCED IN EARLY AUGUST THAT IT WOULD TAKE IN 50 BOAT CASES. THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS ABOUT 146,000 IN COUNTRY, WILL TAKE 8000 FROM THAI CAMPS, IN ADDITION TO 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY SHOULD USE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION AS THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED REQUEST TO THE GROC TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO BOAT CASE REFUGEES. THE APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE AT A LEVEL DEEMED UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROPRIATE BY THE EMBASSY AND SHOULD DRAW UPON INFORMATION IN PARAS 1-3 AS WELL AS FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE APPRECIATE PAST ROC WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SOME BOAT CASE REFUGEES TO LAND IN TAIWAN.

--WE HOPE THAT OUR DECISION TO ADMIT ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, INCLUDING BOAT REFUGEES, WOULD PROMPT THE ROC TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN ALLOWING BOAT CASE REFUGEES TO LAND.

--WITH RESPECT TO THE 37 REFUGEES NOW ON THE SMALL LIU CHIU ISLANDS (TAIPEI 3188), WE ANTICIPATE THAT THOSE QUALIFYING FOR ENTRY TO THE US CAN BE ACCOMODATED WITHIN THE 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE US UNDER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION.

--WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE ROC WOULD JOIN THE EXPANDING EFFORTS BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO FIND NEW HOMES FOR AT LEAST SOME OF THESE REFUGEES FROM COMMUNISM, ESPECIALLY-- BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY--ETHNIC CHINESE.

5. SIMILAR DEMARCHES ARE BEING MADE IN OTHER EAST ASIAN
CAPITALS. CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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